

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 18957 300005Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /067 W
-----300012Z 026009 /60

R 292345Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4464
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 18957

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, JA, MARR
SUBJECT: SOHYO VIEWS ON ANNUAL BASE WORKERS WAGE AGREEMENT

REF: TOKYO 18930

1. AYMNOTED IN REFTEL, SOHYO CHAIRMAN MAKIEDA, IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 22, CHARACTERIZED ANNUAL NEGOTIATION OF WAGE INCREASES FOR JAPANESE EMPLOYEES OF USFJ AS "SPECIFIC, CHRONIC PROBLEM." HE CLAIMED THAT THE SOHYO-AFFILIATED BASE WORKERS' UNION (ZENGUNRO) PARTICULARLY UPSET DURING LAST THREE YEARS BY USFJ PRACTICE OF STRETCHING OUT WAGE NEGOTIATIONS OVER VIRTUALLY ENTIRE YEAR. MAKIEDA URGED THAT USFJ INSTEAD CONFORM TO WHAT HE ASSERTED WAS PREVIOUSLY AGREED PRINCIPLE OF APPLYING NATIONAL PERSONNEL AUTHORITY(NPA) RECOMMENDATIONS TO BASE WORKERS SALARIES PROMPTLY. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT EMBASSY HAD NO DIRECT ROLE IN BASE WAGE NEGOTIATIONS, HE ASKED AMB TO "USE GOOD OFFICES IN WORKING TOWARD THIS GOAL." IN THIS CONNECTION, MAKIEDA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD USFJ AND GOJ NOW WORKING ON STUDY OF THIS
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PROBLEM WITH RECOMMENDATIONS DUE IN NOVEMBER 1977. MAKIEDA SAID HE PERSONNALLY HAD BEEN LOBBYING WITH FONOFF AND DEFENSE AGENCY ON BEHALF OF BASE EMPLOYEES.

2. AMBASSADOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WAGE NEGOTIATIONS WERE NOT EMBASSY RESPONSIBILITY BUT SAID BOTH EMBASSY

AND USFJ REALIZED THAT PROBLEM WAS SERIOUS AND HAD
SPENT MUCH TIME DISCUSSING IT WITH MOFA AND JDA. US
SIDE WAS HOPEFUL THAT JOINT STUDY WOULD RESULT IN IMPROVED
SYSTEM FROM POINT OF VIEW OF BOTH JAPANESE WORKERS AND
USFJ.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

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